

**MIKANIA URCUENSIS, A NEW SPECIES FROM ECUADOR
(EUPATORIEAE: ASTERACEAE)**

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ABSTRACT

Mikania urcuensis is described as new from the Province of Napo in Ecuador.

KEY WORDS: *Mikania*, Eupatorieae, Ecuador, new species.

A major effort in the last decade has resulted in submission of a treatment of the tribe Eupatorieae for the Flora of Ecuador. The genus *Mikania* in that treatment was prepared by the present authors with recognition of 59 species for the country. Fifteen of these were described as new and one previous herbarium name was validated in preparation for the treatment (Robinson & Holmes 2002). Since that time, material has continued to be examined and additions to the flora have been found. These include an undescribed species from the Province of Napo described here to make it available for the revised flora manuscript. The present total of species recognized from Ecuador is 61.

***Mikania urcuensis* H. Rob. & W.C. Holmes, sp. nov.** TYPE:

Ecuador. Napo: Slopes of Guagra Urcu, on the loma above upper Río Borja, SE exposed montane forest, scandent, inflorescence white, 00°28'S, 77°44'W. 2600 m, 25 Sep 1980. *L.B. Holm-Nielsen, J. Jaramillo, F. Coello & E. Asanza 26986* (holotype US, isotypes AAU, QCA).

A Mikanium bogotensis in ramis inflorescentis spicato-racemosis et in limbis corollarum salverformibus superficialiter simila sed in nodis non disciferis in laminis foliorum subglabris base non truncatis vel cordatis in bracteis involucri acutis et in lobis corollarum interne non papilliferis distincta.

Vines with sparingly branched, slender, flexuous stems; internodes often 9-12 cm long, terete, striate, densely puberulous with minute worm-like hairs, narrowly fistulose; nodes without discs, with only a transverse ridge between leaves. Leaves opposite, petioles 0.5-1.5 cm long, densely puberulous with stout short hairs; blade ovate, mostly 3.0-8.5 cm long, 1.5-3.5 cm wide, base broadly obtuse to rounded, margins entire, apex acute, surfaces nearly concolorous, upper surface glabrous and smooth, with main veins minutely puberulous, veinlets prominulous, glandular dots sparse, obscure, lower surface dull, with more numerous, minute glandular dots, with few minute hairs mostly on veins; venation with two pairs of subparallel, ascending, arching secondary veins from 1-5 mm and 5-15 mm above base of blade. Inflorescences in pairs from axils of leaves, pyramidally thyrsoid with spiciform branches, a few small foliiform bracts at lower branches 7-15 mm long, distal bracteoles narrowly subulate, 3-7 mm long; with heads 7-17 on a branch, in spiciform or racemose groups, 1 erect and terminal, others spreading at 90° angles, mostly separated by 3-5 mm, sessile to subsessile; peduncles 1-2 mm long. Heads ca. 5 mm high, 2-3 mm wide; subinvolucral bract at base of peduncle, subulate, ca. 1.5 mm long, involucral bracts 4, narrowly oblong, ca. 4 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, apex short-acute, base narrow, gibbous, minutely puberulous, outside mostly glabrous. Florets 4; corollas white, 3.3-3.5 mm long, glabrous, basal tube slender, tubular, ca. 2 mm long, limb ca. 1.3 mm long, salverform, throat ca. 0.3 mm, lobes oblong-ovate, ca. 0.8 mm long, smooth on both surfaces; anther collar ca. 0.3 mm long; thecae ca. 0.8 mm long; apical appendage ca. 0.2 mm long, 1.7 mm wide; style base plain; style branches mamilliose, more strongly at base. Achenes prismatic, 5-angled, 1.6-1.9 mm long, mostly glabrous, with some slender uniseriate hairs in distal 1/5; pappus of ca. 35 slender white bristles, ca. 3 mm long, broadened distally. Pollen grains ca. 18 µm in diam.

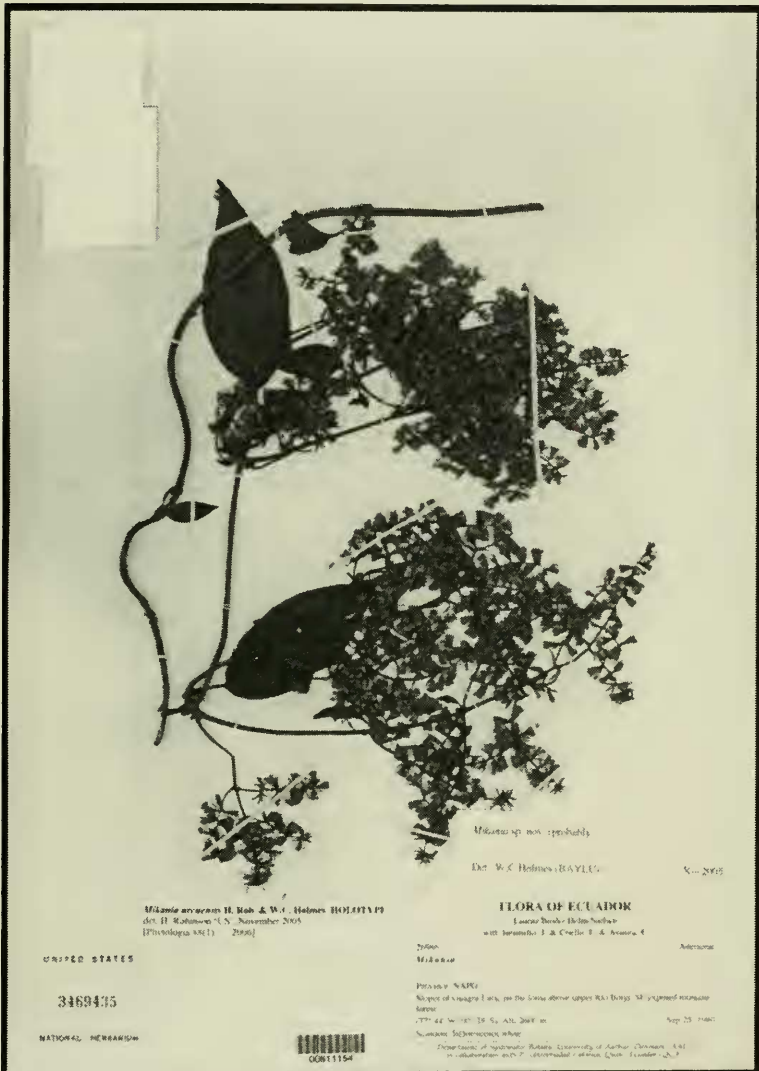


Fig.1. *Mikania urcuensis* H.Robinson & W.C. Holmes, holotype, United States National Herbarium (US).

Paratype: Ecuador. Napo: Guagra Urcu, the pass between Río Borja and Río Suno, montane forest, scandent, flowers white, 00°28'S, 77°43'W, 2700 m, 27 Sep 1980, *L.B. Holm-Nielsen, J. Jaramillo, F. Coello & E. Asanza 27309* (AAU, QCA, US).

Mikania urcuensis is presently known only from the type and 1 paratype specimen. It is named for the locality in which it was found. There is a superficial resemblance to *Mikania bogotensis* Benth. because of the racemose/spiciform inflorescence branches and the salverform limb of the corolla. However, the lack of nodal discs on the stem, the nearly glabrous leaves without truncate or cordate bases, and the lack of mamillae inside the limb of the corolla make close relationship very doubtful. The greater separation of the heads on the branches also distinguishes the species. The leaves show some resemblance to those of another group with racemose/spiciform inflorescence branches, the *M. houstoniana* (L.) B.L. Rob. group, but the leaves of the new species lack the attenuate tips and the highly ordered tranverse tertiary venation of the latter group, and the salverform limb of the corolla is totally different.

LITERATURE CITED

- Robinson, H. and W.C. Holmes.** 2002. New species of *Mikania* from Ecuador (Eupatorieae: Asteraceae). *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* 115(4): 878-908.